

*Hon. A. E. Jackson, U. S.*

The Old South and the New.

A SPEECH

Delivered in Charleston, South Carolina, November 20th, 1885, at  
the Opening of the Industrial Exhibition by

COL. WM. F. SWITZLER,

Chief of the Bureau of Statistics,

*Treasury Dept., Washington, D. C.*



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*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

In rising to respond to the call which has been made upon me for remarks on this occasion, I trust there is no indelicacy, but manifest appropriateness, in my acknowledging the pleasant courtesies and distinguished honors which have been tendered me by Mr. Courtney, the Mayor of Charleston, and by Dr. Rose, the President of the Agricultural Society, and by other public-spirited citizens, among whom I may mention Dr. Horlbeck and Rev. Dr. Vedder.

I do not however believe, and shall not for a moment suppose, that these marked testimonials of respect are designed for me personally, for, personally I am an utter stranger to the people of South Carolina, but that they find their inspiration in the regard you entertain for the Government and interests which, for the time being, I represent and am here to promote; a Government which, my fellow-citizens, whatever may have been at any time your views in regard to it, your representatives in the Federal Convention of 1787—Rutledge, Butler, and the two Pinckneys—aided to establish, South Carolina the year after it was ordained being one of the nine States which ratified the Constitution which that Convention adopted. Moreover it is worthy of perpetual remembrance that during the war of the Revolution, 1775-1783, South Carolina furnished more than one-eighth ~~per cent.~~ of the entire American forces which achieved our independence, although at that time her white population was only four per cent. of the population of the old thirteen States. I repeat, that no difference what at any time may have been your views of the object, structure and function of the Constitution ordained, or of the wisdom of the laws of Congress, it is now the universal judgment of the people of your State that this is their Constitution and Government, and the Government and Flag of their posterity forever.

During the bloody and fratricidal war through which we so recently passed, unfortunate divisions and embarrassing complications existed on every hand, but let us thank that beneficent Providence, who, at all periods of our history held the American Republic in the hollow of His hand, that hence forth, North and South, East and West, and from the Lakes to the Gulf, and from the rivers to the sea, we are one people, with one ancestry, one Constitution, one Flag, and one Destiny—an indestructible Union of indestructible States.

In a letter to the Honorable Mayor of Charleston, who so kindly tendered me a welcome to this historic City, I announced that my visit had no political significance whatever, but was purely official, and the better to enable me to discharge the responsible trust in connection with the foreign and internal commerce of the country, imposed upon me by the present National Administration at Washington.

When, therefore, I saw in the newspapers that the widely-noticed and very creditable industrial exhibit South Carolina made at the New Orleans Exposition would be reproduced here, I resolved to attend it, believing it would prove to be that which I have found it, an epitome of your agricultural and manufacturing industries, with many beautiful specimens of the handiwork of women, and one of which you have good reason to be proud. Your State is the book. This exhibit is the index—the table of contents.

The Laws of Congress make it the duty of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, or to more tersely and intelligently define it, the Chief of the Bureau of Commercial Statistics, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, to prepare and publish for the information of Congress and the Country, a report on Internal Commerce. What portion of our extended domain should be the special subject of this report, is largely within the discretion of the Chief of this Bureau. In determining my duty in the premises I was greatly embarrassed, for it will be seen at a glance that such a report could not embrace the whole country, or even the Mississippi Valley, and that, therefore, a smaller subdivision of it must be selected for special consideration. On examining the reports of my predecessors in office I found that the Southern States, including of course the State of South Carolina, had not, in respect to their industrial, commercial, educational and transportation in-



terests, received special attention. I was, therefore, not slow in determining that this group of States presented a very rich and inviting field of investigation and development; and, therefore, I determined, with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury, to occupy it, and to make it the subject of a special report.

This group of States, and, notably, the State of South Carolina, is replete with historic interest, and with industrial and commercial importance. Within the boundaries of this group are exclusively confined productions without which our foreign commerce would be comparatively small, for without cotton and the multiplied forms into which it is manufactured, and sugar, rice, tobacco, and other leading products of their soil, the United States could not aspire to be the fourth commercial nation of the world.

I have mentioned the historic interest which centers in South Carolina—an interest which will be the subject not only of the statelier utterances of prose, but of the music of poetry and song during all the ages which are to come.

Were this an historic occasion, and the circumstances propitious, and I had time to speak and you time to hear, I might be indulged in recalling some of the more prominent and instructive events connected with the colonization and development of your State. I might be indulged in wresting from comparative oblivion the fact that in 1670, (129 years after the discovery of the Mississippi River by De Soto, 50 years after the landing of the Pilgrims, and 62 years before the birth of Washington), a colony of Englishmen landed at Port Royal, which is now situated in Beaufort, the most north-easterly county of your State, and a region famous for the production of sea-island cotton, and there made the first permanent settlement. Previous to this—as we are told by a recent valuable report by your State Board of Agriculture—several unsuccessful efforts at colonization had been made by French and Spanish expeditions, but accomplished nothing except to bestow upon the province the name of “Carolina”, in honor of Charles IX of France. This was, in fact, the beginning of the settlement and founding of the City of Charleston.

A glance at the map will show that Port Royal, although it had a magnificent harbor, was too near the Spanish settlements and their allies, the Indian tribes adjacent, for the peace, safety and permanency of the Colony, and within a year thereafter Col.

William Sayle, the agent of the Lords Proprietors, and the Commander of the Colony, determined to remove further up the coast, so that there should be intervening between the colonists and their enemies the several bays, rivers and estuaries which indent the coast of Carolina, between Port Royal and the present location of Charleston.

These colonists selected a spot on the west bank of the Ashley River, about three miles above the present city, and called it in honor of King Charles, "Charles Town." It was soon, however, found that the shipping facilities of this location were insufficient, and, therefore, by degrees the inhabitants of Charles Town moved lower down the river to establish themselves nearer the sea. The peninsula of land formed by the confluence of the Ashley and Cooper rivers, and then known by the unmusical name of "Oyster Point," was low and marshy and cut up by numerous creeks, but there was sufficient high ground on the Cooper River side to afford room for a settlement, and by 1677 there were enough houses built upon it to need some designation, and the new settlement was called "Oyster Point Town." Three years afterwards, however, a large majority of the colonists moved to this spot, the present site of the city in which we are assembled. The seat of government was formally transferred to it, and the name was changed to "New Charles Town"—both the "Oyster" and the "Point" being consigned to history. Two years later the old settlement was virtually abandoned and the new one became the only Charles Town. It was then made a port of entry, and in 1685, a Collector was appointed—an anti-type, I suppose, of Mr. Jervay, your present Collector of Customs. It was not however until the year 1783, rendered notable in American history because of the termination of the Revolutionary War and the declaration of peace, that the City was incorporated by the Provincial Legislature under its present shorter name of "Charleston."

Leaping over more than a century of stirring "incidents by flood and field," embracing the chrysalis and colonial period of the state, I shall be pardoned if I further digress to say that each page of the revolutionary history of South Carolina gleams with evidences of heroic devotion to the great truths, to which, as a nation, we owe our freedom, and with an eloquence and states-



manship which render the fame of her orators and law-givers immortal.

The blood shed and the bravery displayed by your heroic army under Gen. Benjamin Lincoln in resisting to "the death" the investment and conflagration of Charleston in 1780 by Admiral Arbuthnot, Sir Henry Clinton and Col. Tarlton; and at King's Mountain, Eutaw Springs, Ninety Six, Saunder's Creek, Cowpens, and on the High Hills of Santee will never be forgotten; and the fame of Marion, Greene, Pickens, Clark, Lincoln, Whipple, and Sumter, (the latter called by Lord Cornwallis, "The Carolina Gamecock"), and the heroic exploits of Rebecca Motte and Emily Geiger, emblazon the Revolutionary history of this Commonwealth, and to-day constitute a part of the rich heritage of proud memories vouchsafed to us by a noble ancestry.

But this exploration into the annals of the past, how partial and incomplete soever it is, and interesting and inviting as it may be, must cease, because, among other reasons, I appreciate the fact that it is a divergence from the true line of thought which brings us together. We are assembled not to disclose or investigate the early history of South Carolina, and of Charleston, but rather to enter upon the contemplation of themes of greater present interest to you and the people. What ought to be done, what within the range of human agencies can be achieved for the industrial, commercial, educational and transportation interests of Charleston and of South Carolina and the whole South? What processes of logic or law, what exertion of brain or muscle, what leadership or power of the press, or outlays of capital and employment of labor can soonest and most cheaply and successfully quicken the currents of public enterprise, and place more securely within your grasp the marvelous possibilities which soil and climate, and mine and river, and inlet and ocean beckon you to achieve?

I am forbidden by the proprieties of the occasion and by a want of time from entering upon a discussion of these important questions; but I will be pardoned for saying that the cultivation, manufacture and exportation of cotton is one of the great paramount, material interests of the people of South Carolina. It is not their only interest, but it is one to which they have given much attention, and in the rapidly developing future, will, if they are wise, render more, not only by improved processes of culture,

but by increased acreage devoted to cotton (above your 25,000), through the subjugation of their large forest-wastes to the use of the planter.

That cotton is an interest of great value to them is attested by the fact that there were exported from this city alone during the last fiscal year 340,000 bales, or 158,500,000 pounds of this staple, worth in "spot cash," more than \$17,500,000.

It cannot be questioned, therefore, that even the *history* of the production and exportation of this leading staple will be of enduring interest to the people of this Commonwealth. So believing, I am tempted to glance at it and to say that according to reliable history, (\*) the first mention of cotton by any writer is by Herodotus, about 450 years B. C., and that the culture of cotton was first practised in India. It is not however known, for history furnishes no means of ascertaining the fact, when or by what progressive stages of discovery and invention cotton was first utilized by man.

There is no authentic record of any cotton being manufactured in Europe before the tenth century.

Before the discovery of the Mississippi River, and about the year 1536, the cotton plant was found growing in the country drained by that stream, and in Texas, but the experiment of its culture was not entered upon in the United States before 1621. It was first valued as an ornamental plant and cultivated in gardens or nurtured in boxes or pots.

It was not until after the revolutionary war, that cotton in the United States was cultivated with a view to export, and one of the interesting facts connected with its early history on this continent is that the first exportation of cotton occurred from the port of Savannah in 1784, just one year after the declaration of peace. This export consisted of ten bales, and we have the testimony of authentic history for the statement, that the sailing vessel upon which these bales were carried to the port of Liverpool, was detained in that port and the Captain of the vessel arrested by the municipal authorities on the charge of attempting a fraud upon the public; the charge against him being that it was impossible so large an amount as ten bales could be produced in the United States.

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(\*) Johnson's Cyclopaedia.

Observe what we have accomplished in a century: 10 bales exported in 1784; 3,969,568 bales exported in 1885! Computing each of these bales to be five feet in length, this number, laid end to end, would form a continuous line nearly four thousand miles long, or from Philadelphia across the ocean to Antwerp, or from New York to New Orleans and return, and would cover an area of nearly 1,500 acres.

A year after this initial export, the culture of short staple cotton was commenced in the United States, and in 1795, 1,000,000 pounds were exported from this city. Since that time—as we learn from the authority already cited—the use of cotton, which previously had been limited for the most part to the hot climate where it grew, has been marvelously extended, so that at present it constitutes not only the entire clothing of a large majority of the human race, but it has become a part of the material in which the people of all lands and languages are clothed, excepting, perhaps, the most debased and savage races of mankind.

I have here a tabular statement showing the total production of raw cotton in the United States, by years, from 1821, which is the first year in respect to which we have official data, to 1884; and also the exports of cotton from 1791 to the present time. The total production in 1821, was 430,000 bales; in 1884, 5,646,441! Our agricultural experts predict, that notwithstanding the ravages of the cotton worm in some of the States, and of unfavorable weather during the months of August and September, the cotton production of this country for the present year will reach 6,500,000 bales. In 1791, we exported about 190,000 pounds, and in 1826, which was the last year the exportations were reckoned in pounds, 204,500,000. The year preceding our civil war, our exports of cotton reached 3,126,867 bales, and the year immediately following the close of the war (1865), 1,552,457. We have no official data of the exports of cotton during the war.

Our largest export was in 1883, namely, 4,626,808 bales. In 1784, ten bales; in 1883, more than four millions and a half of bales!

These interesting and suggestive statistical facts verify the statement that the reign of King Cotton in this country is unbroken, for His Royal Highness continues to furnish the most valuable article of export, so far as the aggregate amount sent abroad

is concerned, furnished by our country, the total quantity of the manufactured article for the past fiscal year footing up the incalculable and marvelous weight of one billion eight hundred and ninety odd millions of pounds!

But cotton is not by any means your only interest or the only valuable production of the soil of the South. Sugar, rice and tobacco, and corn and other cereals, and fruits in great variety, are successfully cultivated, and are receiving more attention than at any time in your history; but I have not time to discuss them or to summarize the statistics of their production and value. They will receive due attention in the report I am preparing to make to the Secretary of the Treasury.

But there is a wider and even more encouraging view of the progress of the industrial, commercial, transportation and educational interests of the Southern States. This progress has attracted attention in all parts of our country, and in the United Kingdom, and on the continent of Europe. Distinguished economists and statesmen, and the conductors of newspapers and other periodicals have summarized and discussed this marvellous progress and have developed its beneficent influence on the prosperity of the people and the institutions of the country.

Among those who have made valuable contributions to our store of knowledge on this subject, I mention with pleasure the conductors of the *Baltimore Manufacturers' Record*, the *New Orleans Times-Democrat*, and your own distinguished fellow-citizens, F. W. Dawson of the *Charleston News and Courier*, and Col. W. L. Trelholm.

Gathering important facts and reliable statistics from each of these sources, and summarizing them in the briefest possible form consistent with justice to the immense interest involved, I state on their authority, that since 1879, the South has added 11,000 miles to her railroad mileage, the building of which, added to the investments in old roads and their improvement, foot up but little, if any, short of \$500,000,000.

Elaborate tables are given of the comparative values of property in the South in 1879-80 and 1884-85, which show that in 1880 the total assessed values in the South were \$2,184,208,505, while in 1885 they were \$3,076,514,435, showing an increase of \$892,-



305,930. South Carolina advanced during the same period from \$137,237,986, to \$158,703,000 of assessed values.

The production of corn has increased from 334,000,000 bushels in 1879, to 498,000,000 bushels in 1885—a gain of 165,000,000 bushels—and of oats, from 42,000,000 bushels to about 70,000,000 bushels, while of tobacco, fruits and vegetables, the grasses, &c., the increase has been equally as satisfactory. In the raising of hogs and live stock generally, the same wonderful progress has been shown.

In 1880, the total crop values of the Southern States amounted to \$549,850,000, and in 1885, to \$669,077,000, showing the remarkable increase of \$119,227,000—an increase of 21.68 per cent. In 1880 the value of live stock was \$326,378,414, and in 1885 it is \$562,916,258—an increase of 72.47 per cent.

The cotton mills have increased from 180 to 353, and the number of spindles and looms from 713,989 and 15,222, respectively, to 1,460,697 and 27,004—a gain of about 100 per cent. Cotton-seed-oil mills, that in 1880 numbered 40, having a capital of \$3,504,500, now number 146, having a capital of \$10,792,450.

In 1880 the South made 397,301 tons of pig iron; in 1884 it made 657,599 tons—a gain of 260,298 tons. Three states—Virginia, Alabama and Tennessee—that in 1880 produced 178,006 tons of pig iron, in 1884 produced 481,744 tons—an increase of 303,738 tons, or 9,500 tons more than the net increase in the United States, the production in the whole country outside of these three states being less in 1884, than in 1880.

This is a very remarkable development, and one which is worthy of special note. It would seem to justify the opinion advanced by many intelligent gentlemen of the South, that the South will eventually lead in the production of iron. In verification of this view, I am indebted to the Hon. Lee R. Shryock of New York City, Ex-President of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, for the opinion that no such ores as the great specular and brown hematite of the States of Alabama and Tennessee, and the magnetic of Missouri and Kentucky are to be found anywhere north of the Ohio river. It is very true that the Lake Superior Region furnishes good ores, but the supply is comparatively small, when compared to the immense deposits of the states named. As to pig iron, it is an interesting fact that the Old Briarfield Furnace of

Alabama made during the war the pig iron for the Confederate Government; and some from Buffalo Gap in Virginia, that was cast into heavy guns at Richmond and Selma, were so tough and malleable that it was almost equal to the best bloom or hammered iron. Nothing short of heavy charges of gunpowder or dynamite would explode these guns. Over fifty captured from the Confederacy were sold at auction at Selma by the United States Government; they could not be broken, and the buyer had to remove them intact at great expense.

I have recently seen the statement, that the cost of making a ton of pig iron in Pennsylvania is about \$22; that the quality is not so good as the iron manufactured at Birmingham, Ala., and Chattanooga, Tenn., and that at these places, pig iron can be produced at \$11 per ton, and sold at a profit at these figures. It is also asserted that the actual cost is only \$9 per ton. Whether these statements will be verified by more thorough investigation I am not able to say.

In 1880, 6,048,571 tons of coal were mined in the South, and in 1884, the output was 10,844,051 tons.

The amount of phosphate rock mined in South Carolina in 1880, was 190,000 tons and the capital invested in the business was \$3,493,300, while now the capital is over \$6,500,000 and the amount of rock mined largely over 400,000 tons.

But these are the great interests. There are many other small industries all over the South that even more strikingly exhibit the new spirit which has come over that section. A great many local enterprises, such as wagon, chair, broom and furniture factories, fruit canneries, flour, grist and saw mills, planing-mills, wire factories, potteries, marble and slate works have been established to manufacture articles heretofore brought from the North. There has also been an increase in value in the manufacture of the articles into which lumber enters, of \$12,700,000 in 1885, over the valuation of 1880. Taking in all the branches of manufactures the values are: For 1880, \$315,924,774; and for 1885, \$445,656,000. The total valuation of the South, expressed in dollars and cents, now is \$3,076,514,435, as against \$2,184,208,505, in 1880. This shows an annual increase of productiveness of \$300,751,466, or about 30 per cent.

Summing up the amount of capital and capital stock repre-



sented by new manufacturing and mining enterprises in the South for the first nine months of the present year, the *Baltimore Record* says these aggregated \$52,386,300, and distributes them as follows:

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Alabama.....        | \$5,864,000  |
| Arkansas.....       | 500,000      |
| Florida.....        | 1,237,000    |
| Georgia.....        | 2,052,000    |
| Kentucky.....       | 14,005,000   |
| Louisiana.....      | 1,955,000    |
| Maryland.....       | 6,107,800    |
| Mississippi.....    | 571,500      |
| North Carolina..... | 2,543,000    |
| South Carolina..... | 592,000      |
| Tennessee.....      | 2,300,000    |
| Texas.....          | 2,280,000    |
| Virginia.....       | 2,735,000    |
| West Virginia.....  | 9,644,000    |
| Total.....          | \$52,386,300 |

Lastly, but not by any means least, are the educational interests of the South, in respect to which it is mentioned that, in proportion to their means, the Southern States are now spending more money for education than any other section of the country. On good authority it is stated that the "amount appropriated for the Southern public schools to-day is \$10,243,857, and that the schools have an attendance of 3,011,766 pupils." (\*)

This hurried summary, imperfect and impartial as it necessarily is, presents an encouraging view of the recuperative energies of the Southern people, desolated and impoverished as they were by the civil war, and affords an earnest that, unless retarded by unwise legislation at home or at Washington, they will not only become self-sustaining, but the exporters of large amounts of raw material and manufactured goods to other States, and to Mexico, Central and South America, and to Europe.

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(\*) It is learned from the recent message of Hon. Hugh S. Thompson, Governor of South Carolina, that the number of pupils enrolled in the public schools of the State during the year just closed was 173,023, of which 73,453 were whites and 99,565 were colored; the average attendance was 123,093, of which 55,664 were white, and 66,429 were colored. The number of teachers employed was 3,773, being an increase of eighty-nine over the number employed during the preceding year; and the number of schools was 3,562, being an increase of eighty over the number in operation during the year 1893-94. The length of the school term was three and a half months, a decrease of a half a month. The total amount of funds available for school purposes during the year 1893-94, the latest period for which reports are attainable, was \$515,530.33, of which \$441,599.37 was collected during the year, and \$73,931.00 consisted of unexpended balances brought forward from previous years. The total amount expended was \$423,419.41.

Taking a still wider view, and a glance at the foreign commerce of the United States, it will be found that although our imports and exports of merchandise declined in value from \$1,547,020,316, in 1883, its highest point, to \$1,319,717,084, in 1885, a falling off of 14.7 per cent., as the result of the protracted period of commercial depression, yet, when we regard it in the light of its general progress since 1860, we find abundant reason for encouragement.

During the period from 1860 to 1885, the total value of our imports and exports of merchandise increased from \$687,192,176, to \$1,319,717,084, or 92 per cent. Our imports of merchandise increased from \$353,616,119, to \$577,527,329, or 63 per cent., and our exports of domestic merchandise increased from \$316,242,443, to \$726,682,946, or 129 per cent.

When we compare the value of the foreign commerce of the leading commercial nations of the world, we find that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland stands first, Germany second, France third, and the United States fourth.

Examining the statistics of the world's commerce, by countries, a distinguished German economist, (Herr von Neumann Spallart), has recently made a publication to prove that the center of gravity of the world's commerce is gradually shifting from the United Kingdom through Germany to the United States; and my conviction is that the facts and statistics clearly enforce the conclusion he has reached. He shows, that while in 1868, the share of the United Kingdom in the world's commerce was 24 per cent., it had fallen in 1882 to 19.5 per cent., and that of the total foreign commerce of Great Britain and the Continent in 1868, Great Britain is credited with 34.5 per cent., and in 1882, with only 29 per cent.

In 1868, Great Britain produced 53.6 per cent. of the coal mined in the world; in 1883 only 47 per cent.

In 1868, British productions of pig iron amounted to 44.1 per cent. of the total, while it was but 39.1 per cent. in 1883.

Taking next the article of cotton we find that from 1856 to 1860, the United Kingdom consumed 63 per cent. of all raw cotton produced on the globe, and the Continent of Europe 39.7 per cent.; but that in 1883, the cotton trade of Great Britain decreased

to 52.3 per cent., while that of the Continent had risen to 47.7 per cent.

From this showing it is held that the center of gravity of the world's commerce is slowly but surely drifting from Great Britain toward Germany, and that it will ultimately rest in the United States.

But I must desist from further discussion of these inviting and suggestive themes.

*Fellow Citizens:* I am in South Carolina for the first time; and more than this, yesterday morning, from a point near your Custom house, I saw the ocean for the first time, unless, indeed, the logic of your own eminent statesman, Mr. Calhoun, in his Memphis speech in 1845, be true, that the Mississippi River, which I have seen a thousand times, is an arm of the ocean extended inland and lying across the bosom of the Continent. I am here with the knowledge and approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to advance your interests and the interests of the Southern States, believing that the industrial and other great interests of these States are indissolubly linked to the interests of the Republic.

I am profoundly gratified to say that evidences greet me on every hand—they are to be seen in this Exposition—that under the influence of our beneficent institutions, and the quickened currents of public enterprise, great possibilities are within the reach of your city and Commonwealth and of the whole South.

As I survey from this platform the group of States whose shores are washed by the Mississippi, Ohio and Potomac Rivers, or are lashed by the waves of the Atlantic Ocean, or the eddying currents of the Gulf of Mexico, I catch the brightening radiance of a new civilization for the whole country, and behold the rising grandeur of a new South—a new Charleston and a new South Carolina.





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